

Town Council Meeting: 13 July 2009



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

MINUTES

Meeting Call to Order: Mayor Keller called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM. Present were Council members Irons, Mandel, Petito, Schulp, and Wegner; Administrator Pratt and a number of Town residents. Also attending were Boy Scouts from the Flaming Penguins Patrol of Troop 463

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Keller noted that the new format of the posted agenda included brief summaries of the major agenda items and that for the first time the Town had mailed a copy of the agenda to each household in Town – the intent being to provide greater information about and increased attendance at Town Council meetings. The agenda was approved as posted without objection.

Presentations by Residents:

- Residents Jim Agenbroad of Raleigh Avenue and Ann Gordon of Cambria Avenue addressed the Council regarding excessive noise at the Garrett Park Swimming Pool on the occasion of its annual sleep over. They raised the issue of late evening and overnight events creating unacceptable noise levels and asked that the Council take steps to eliminate overnight events and curtail noise from evening events. They also pointed out that the pool was subject to various County restrictions and regulations through the special exemption granted by the County that allowed the pool to operate in a residential district. There was extended discussion, which included concerns expressed about the ice cream vendor's musical tune causing a noise problem for the neighborhood during the day. A resident in attendance at the meeting, noting her prior experience as an ice cream vendor, explained that the recording was an essential part of the enterprise. Mayor Keller expressed gratitude for the breadth of vocational expertise in Garrett Park. He noted that the Town had exempted itself from the County's noise ordinance and that it was perhaps time for the Council to reconsider that exemption. Councilmember Petito, as Council liaison to the Pool Board, agreed to raise the matter with the Pool Association officers. Members of the Pool Board had already contacted the residents to discuss this disturbance.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Keller noted that he had received a number of calls from residents regarding the temporary reduction in Post Office hours through the summer

until September 14th. Resident Tara Flynn noted the difficulty the reduced hours impose on commuting residents. Mayor Keller stated that he intends to meet with the Postmaster as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

- Mayor Keller reported that he and the Council had been engaged in a number of Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Montgomery County zoning and planning issues over the last months. Recently the Mayor had written a letter, on behalf of the Town and the Council, to the County Council in opposition to the acceleration of the County's master plan public participation process after the planning staff has presented its review and analysis of a project. Other citizen groups also opposed the change in procedures. The Mayor noted that the County Council ignored these requests and adopted the procedures that would permit accelerated consideration of plans and plan revisions. For consideration of the White Flint Sector Plan (anticipated to be forwarded by the Planning Department to the County Council at the end of July), the County Council will apparently not apply the accelerated timeline, however; public hearings for the White Flint Sector Plan are anticipated to take place in November.
- Mayor Keller stated that at its work session held on June 22nd the Council had worked out Council members' various areas of responsibility and that these would be posted at Penn Place and on the Town's website shortly. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Councilmember's Reports on Areas of Responsibility

- Councilmember Irons noted that the Land Use Task Force would next meet on July 23rd, and would not be meeting in August.

Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of the minutes of the 06/08/2009 Regular Council Meeting was deferred until the Council workshop on July 27th.

Action/Discussion:

- Garrett Park Nursery School (GPNS) & Acquisition of Community Center Building - Mayor Keller briefed the Council on the status of the proposed transfer of ownership of the Community Center building to the Town by the County Parks Department, noting that the County had waived the requirement of a land swap. The Parks Dept. now proposes a transfer "in fee simple" with two conditions: 1) that a formal agreement regarding daily maintenance of Garrett- Waverly Park by the Town be agreed to; and 2) that the building revert to County ownership should it cease to be utilized as a community center by the Town. The Montgomery County Park and Planning Commission approved the transfer on July 9; it is scheduled for approval by the full M-NCPPC at its meeting Wednesday, June 15th. Councilmember Wegner noted that the process should be pretty straightforward now that the land swap issue was off the table. Councilmember Schulp noted that community activities were not limited to the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School. Mayor Keller commented that the Town still had numerous substantive issues to work out with the Nursery School such as the terms of a

lease, liability and maintenance of the building, and that these and related matters would be a topic for discussion at the upcoming Council workshop on July 27th. Councilmember Wegner said that he would meet with those other Council members who wished to prepare a list of issues that needed to be resolved in advance of the work session. Resident Cindy Kratz asked if the Town intended to do its own inspection of the building. After discussion it was the sense of the Council that the Mayor and Administrator Pratt should organize a building inspection and report on its condition for the Council's review.

- Garrett Park Elementary School (GPES) Educational Foundation Contribution – Mayor Keller presented Jill Marsteller and Kay Hager, representing the Foundation, with a Town check for \$5,000 as a contribution to the campaign to enlarge the stage at the new elementary school. Ms. Marsteller reminded the Council that the Foundation was holding a swim-a-thon on July 22nd to raise money for the campaign.
- White Flint Sector Plan – Councilmember Wegner briefed the Council on the status of the White Flint project, noting that a Coalition of neighborhood associations and civic groups had formed and that a core set of principals had been agreed on, including:
 - Project impacts must be balanced by infrastructure capacity; and
 - The Walter Johnson High School Cluster must be maintained.

Councilmember Wegner reported that an active core group is working on the matter, with leadership coming primarily from Garrett Park Estates, but that there was a broad range of individuals involved; a website is being developed. Mayor Keller noted that there would be a lot of work to do between now and the fall County Council hearings on the Sector Plan. Councilmember Mandel asked that his draft letter regarding the provision for a new school inside the White Flint Sector be finalized and sent as soon as possible; it was agreed that the Council would work on developing the final draft for the Mayor's signature by email over the next day or two.

Town Administrator Report:

- Monthly Financial Report & Preliminary FY 2009 Summary – Administrator Pratt reviewed the monthly report with the Council.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10: 20 PM

[TOWN SEAL]

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin Pratt, Jr.

Edwin Pratt, Jr., Clerk-Treasurer